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WESTERLY, R. I.

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AVERY ARCHITECTURAL AND FINE ARTS LIBRARY

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FORT NEW AMSTERDAM



(NEW YORK), 1651.

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Because it has been said
"Ever'thing comes t' him who waits
Except a loaned book."

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SIGHTS AND WONDERS IN NEW YORK.

INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS.

READER, pray lend me your attention,
While with much brevity I mention
Some of the wonders of creation,
Scattered throughout each clime and nation.
Of every other quadruped
The elephant stands at the head ;
All other beasts that roam the field,
To him in bulk and strength must yield.
Then comes the huge rhinoceros,
With elk, and gnu or hornéd horse ;
The tall giraffe and buffalo,
And camels which o'er deserts go ;
The llama, zebra, deer, and goat,
And swiftly-bounding antelope ;
And monkeys so much like a man,
Especially the orang-outang !
Lions, tigers, leopards rare,
The grizzly and the polar bear ;
Panthers, hyenas, wolves, and foxes,
Such as are kept in cage or boxes ;
Sable, ermine, marten, lynx,
Beaver, otter, muskrats, minks.
And birds there are in every land,
From Alpine rocks to desert sand :
The ostrich, eagle, vulture, hawk,
And crane with legs too long to walk ;
Likewise swans, both black and white,
And paroquets with plumage bright ;
And every kind of singing-bird
That eye hath seen or ear hath heard :
All fish that in the ocean swim,
From monstrous shark to herring trim ;
Whale, walrus, porpoises, and seals,
And spurious ones, like snakes and eels !
The ichneume and crocodile,
Found near the banks of Egypt's Nile ;
Serpents and reptiles, insects, all,
That walk or swim, or fly or crawl ;
Choice specimens of antique art
From Pompeii's long-buried mart ;
Or mummy, long in darkness hid
In catacomb or pyramid ;
Or works of yet more modern dates,
From foreign climes or our own states—
As marble statue, plaster bust,
Armor of steel unsoiled by rust ;
Portraits of great and noble men—
Columbus, Franklin, Howard, Penn,
Or of the great illustrious one,
Our own belovéd Washington

All these, and hundreds yet untold,
Which scarcely could be bought for gold,
Are near at hand, and, would you see 'em,
Go to the "American Museum."
There P. T. BARNUM's generosity
To gratify your curiosity,
Has gathered all—and any day,
If but two shillings you will pay,
You're freely welcome to walk in,
And each strange creature to examine.

UNCLE FIND-OUT had two nephews, who, losing their parents in infancy, became the inmates of his abode, subject to his guardianship and protection. He was a man most exceedingly kind in point of disposition, beloved by all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance, and admired and beloved by none more sincerely and deservedly than by the members of his own family, which consisted of himself, an old bachelor, the two nephews already alluded to, his faithful Tom, and Maggy the housekeeper. Uncle Find-out loved his nephews and they in return loved him; who could help it?—for he was a good-hearted, kind old gentleman, and made everybody about him happy. He was in the habit of visiting the city of New York occasionally, and, as the time for doing so had arrived, he concluded his nephews would be pleased to accompany him to the empire city, to behold the sights to be seen there, as well as to witness the tricks upon travellers, so expertly performed in a thousand different ways. He accordingly accosted his nephews, who had just entered his snug, old fashioned parlor: "Well, boys, what say you for a journey to New York with your uncle to-morrow?"—"To-morrow never comes, uncle, so they say," replied the elder, whose name was Charles. The other one, Alfred, reproved his brother for supposing his uncle would propose anything he did not intend to carry into effect, and, turning to his uncle, replied, "My brother and I will be most happy to accompany you, dear uncle, and I trust we shall convince you how highly we value your kindness by our good conduct, not only during our stay in New York, but also upon our return to our rural hermitage on the banks of the Passaic." Charley asked his uncle if he would go with them to the various places of amusement. Uncle Find-out replied that he intended they should see all the places of amusement where boys ought to go, but that they must bear in mind that there were some places he should decline taking them to. The boys nodded a cheerful assent to the remarks of Uncle Find-out, and Alfred then said, "You will perhaps take us to the 'Museum' under the control of Mr. BARNUM."—"To be sure I will, and there you will see 'all the world in Bingham' in that ark of the city that has something of everything in it worth looking at. But, boys, first of all, let me know what is the meaning of the word 'museum.' " Charley replied that it was used to describe a building set apart as a repository for such things as related to the arts and sciences, or, in other words, a cabinet of curiosities.

"You are right, my boy. Originally it was the name given to an institution founded by Ptolemy Philadelphus, about two hundred and eighty years before the birth of Jesus Christ, for the promotion of learning and the support of learned men. We learn from Strabo that the museum formed a part of the palace, and that it contained cloisters or porticoes, a public theatre or lecture-room, and a large hall where the learned men used to dine together. The museum was supported by a common fund supplied from the public treasury, and the whole was under the superintendence of a priest, who was appointed by the king, and, after Egypt became a province of the Roman empire, by the Cæsars. Botanical and zoological gardens appear to have been attached to the museum; other additions were also made by Claudius."

The time to go to rest having arrived, the boys took leave of their uncle

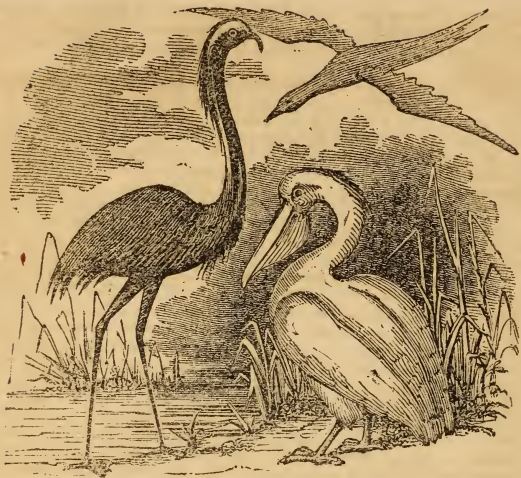
with a hearty "Good-night," and a kiss printed warmly upon the good man's cheek; and up stairs they ran to their slumbers—impatient enough, you may be sure, for the morning light, and ardently praying for a bright, clear day for their journey.

The boys had their wish: the morning broke in upon their slumbers with a bright sun and a cloudless sky. Breakfast was soon disposed of. Down to the steamboat they went with their uncle; the bell for starting rang; the passengers hurried on board; the captain called out, "All aboard!" and in a minute old Dame Steam assured them they were onward for New York. A couple of hours passed merrily on, when the mighty city with her steeples in the distance, her shipping in the foreground, flags flying, guns firing, Trinity bells ringing and a host of people with happy faces, met their astonished gaze. Landing at Pier No. 1. the party made the best of their way through the motley groups of coach and cab men, boarding-house runners, &c., &c. "Coach, sir?"—"Cab, sir?"—"Take your luggage, gemmen?"—"Our card, sir?"—"The Globe, sir?"—"Astor House the best, sir!"—"It's no such thing, sir! the Irving's the best!"—"The Times, Herald, Tribune, Ned Buntline's Own, sir, four for six cents!" and a thousand other cries, led the boys to suppose that the city was a Tower of Babel. A few minutes more, and the party arrived at the Museum. The musicians were playing the national air, "Hail Columbia, happy Land!" Large transparencies adorned the exterior of the buildings, representing the largest man in the world, Mr. Hale, being eight feet high, and weighing five hundred and eight pounds; Miss Eliza Simpson, the giantess, also eight feet high, and weighing three hundred and thirty-seven pounds: the fairy queen "Titania," twenty-four inches in height; the "Great Western," in his varied characters: and all these, with hundreds of thousands of curiosities, to be seen within the walls of this magnificent museum.

Having received their tickets of admission the party proceeded to Room No. 1—and didn't the boys stare with all the eyes they had? They saw so much to look at, that if their heads had been full of eyes they would not have had eyes enough to see all that was there staring them in the face. At the top of the room was a case of beautiful birds, among which was the green stork of the East Indies, the scarlet flamingo of South America, the pouched stork, or adjutant, of the Indies. Uncle Find-out informed them that the flamingo was from three to four feet high, purple-red on the back, and rose-colored wings; that they formed lines for the purpose of fishing, and, when they reposed on the shore, the same disposition to be in files or troops remained; that they appointed a sentinel for their common security, who, upon alarm, makes a braying cry similar to the noise of a trumpet, which is the signal for departure from danger. The tongue was considered a delicacy among the Romans. They build their nests in the form of a sugar-loaf, about twenty inches high. In consequence of their long legs, they straddle over their nests, their legs hanging down on each side and resting on the ground. "Is there anything particular in the pouched stork?"—"The feathers from beneath the wing form the beautiful light plumes which the French call *marabbaus*. The flamingo is found in Senegal and India. When standing in long rows upon the shore, they have the appearance of soldiers in full feather."

He then called their attention to the albatross, the great petrel, cormorant, booby, gamut, and frigate pelican. This last, he informed his nephews, was called the man-of-war bird, from the rapidity of its flight, being met with frequently four hundred leagues at sea, and was the active warrior against the flying-fish. These birds attack the boobies, and, striking them upon their bodies, force them to disgorge the product of their fishing, which they dexterously seize before it falls in the water. The latter bird takes the name of booby from its stupidly submitting to the attacks of both men and animals.

The case opposite the latter next attracted the attention of our wondering admirers. It contained a beautiful variety of ducks, from various parts of



Frigate or Man-of-War Bird, Pelican, and Flamingo.—(See page 3.)

North America, Europe, and the cape of Good Hope. Their uncle then drew their attention to a fine specimen of the joints from the Giants' Causeway in Ireland. From this they turned to a native rock crystal, weighing two hundred and twelve pounds, found in a silver-mine about five hundred miles from the city of Mexico; and also to a case of imitation diamonds, after those in the

possession of various crowned heads in Germany, Russia, Portugal, &c., with their relative sizes and values—and oh! didn't they wonder that such an immense value should be put upon such diamonds?

The next attraction presenting itself to their notice was the camelopard, or giraffe. Uncle Find-out told them that it was a native of Africa: when full grown, its height is about twenty-two feet—

its skin is a beautifully-spotted brown upon a white ground. Its favorite food is the leaf of the acacia and ash trees.



He then called them to look at the case of plovers, widgeons, geese, geese, anders, &c. ; but Alfred called to his uncle and his brother to look at the beautiful infant sleeping with humming-birds hovering around her. "Oh, what lovely birds!" exclaimed one. "What beautiful plumage!" cried the other. From this their attention was drawn to a variety of beautiful engravings of Queens Adelaide and Victoria, Prince Albert, the duchess of Kent, &c., all of England ; but our heroes thought much more of the likeness of General Tom Thumb and of P. T. BARNUM, Esq., the indefatigable manager, who so unceasingly caters for the amusement, gratification, and instruction, of his young visitors, and who, in his journeyings with Tom Thumb, visited and conversed with all the principal crowned heads of Europe—and they concluded that his Museum was worth all the kings, queens, and nabobs, of the world.

Walking on, they came to a case of splendid pheasants, of all colors and degrees of beauty—fowls of every variety, including a skeleton of one of those birds. "Well, I declare!" cried Charley, "who would suppose that a bird was so curiously formed? What a number of small bones! how exquisitely put together!"

Alfred called to his brother to come and look at a picture representing a religious procession in the church of the Madeleine, in Paris. They both admired this picture. The mechanical panoramic pictures next attracted their attention. The first was a "Vue du Pont Neuf à Paris"—steamers in motion, carriages passing, omnibuses proceeding to their respective stations—all beautifully represented. The second, a steam-engine in operation. The third, a scissors-grinder at work. The fourth, stone-cutters sawing a block of marble. The fifth, a railroad bridge, with cars passing over. The seventh, opera-dancers, with all gayety and beauty. The eighth, the musical concert of monkeys. They noticed the delicacy of the principal performer's touch, the motion of his fingers, the beating of his foot to the tune; the leader beating time, and accompanying the music with his voice: and the boys expressed the greatest delight at the beauty and regularity of the movement that put these pictures in operation.

From these views they turned to examine the hoopoe birds, the glossy pheasant from the Himeleh mountain, and the fire-back pheasant from the same place. The color of the feathers on the back they discovered looked exactly like fire; and Uncle Find-out agreed with them that it was a most beautiful specimen. From this their uncle called their attention to the great northern divers of North America, turkey-buzzards, gulls of every species—toucans, and other birds, including domestic fowls, when, holy fathers! what a noise saluted Uncle Find-out's ears! "What are these? Uncle, uncle, do tell us!" "Shut up your potato-traps!—you young rogues, you'll frighten Miss Fanny Elssler out of her wits!" "Who's Miss Fanny Elssler, uncle?"—"Oh, you'll see, by-and-



Birds of Paradise.

by."—"But, pray, do tell us what birds are these?"—"They're birds of paradise, boys, and are found in the island of New Guinea."—"Oh, what beautiful colors! Look at that one with the rich crimson and green feathers, and those elegant streamer black feathers flowing so gracefully from the tail of the green-tufted one. What an elegantly-shaped bird it is, uncle!"—"Yes, and the ancients supposed that they lived on dew, had no feet, and wafted through the air.

"Look here, my boys; here is a specimen of the cock of the rock, from South America, and a very fine bird it is." At length they came to the last case of birds, containing mocking-birds, larks, fly-catchers, field-fairs, &c., when, highly delighted with what they had seen, Uncle Find-out, taking the lead, introduced them into Room No. 2.

There they beheld the portraits of all our great men, from Washington downward—generals, orators, statesmen—who have left names deeply engraven in the hearts of a brave and great nation; patterns and examples worthy of imitation by those who will have to play their parts in the great drama of life.

Also the wax profiles of some thirty Mexican generals, enclosed in a handsome frame.

Mrs. Pelby's celebrated groups of wax figures then came in for a share of deep and thoughtful consideration by the whole party.



And first, the Intemperate Family. The group composes one family: the old man at the table, with the bottle in his pocket, is the father of the dying man; both are drunkards. The fruits of the poisonous bottle are too clearly depicted in the misery, poverty, and wretchedness, around the unfortunate group. "Look well, my boys, on that picture of woe—remember an uncle warns you—see that you touch not, taste not, handle not, the contents of the intoxicating bottle, lest your condition should be as unfortunate as the one you are now gazing upon." They shuddered, and passed to the other side, to the groups representing the Last Supper of our Lord with the disciples.



Uncle Find-out informed his nephews that the moment selected by the artist was where Jesus says—"One of you shall betray me." He then drew their attention to the countenances of the disciples, and requested them to point out the one that appeared the most faithful delineation of the betrayer of Jesus. In a few minutes the two boys recognised Judas, and each exclaimed, "That, uncle, is the man!"—and he quietly nodding assent, they passed on to the groups representing the trial of Jesus before Pontius Pilate. "There, my children," exclaimed Uncle Find-out, "is a solemn representation of the Son of God,

standing as a prisoner, bound as a criminal, the object of Jewish hatred and revenge. I need not pass any further remarks upon it; you are sabbath-school scholars, and well know the history of this trial, of one of the best of beings, the friend of sinners."

"Oh, yes," cried Charley; "our teacher has often talked with us upon the Redeemer and his sufferings."

"Yes, brother; and he always used to beg of us never to forget what Jesus had done for us, poor children of the dust."

Here Uncle Find-out purchased, for six cents, a pamphlet describing all the wax statuary, and also containing a copy of the DEATH-WARRANT OF OUR SAVIOR."

"Let us turn, children, now, to a more pleasing subject. Behold the newborn babe of Bethlehem, whose birth made heaven echo, and angels shout, 'Glory to God in the highest—peace on earth—good-will to men!'"

"This is a beautiful scene, uncle," exclaimed the boys.

"Yes it is, my boys. Can you recite any passage of Scripture that will suit the representation before you?"

"And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling-clothes, and laid him in a manger."

"Very good, Alfred. I am glad you have fixed upon a passage so appropriate. Do you remember the cause that compelled the mother to shelter the babe in a manger?"

"Oh yes, sir. Because there was no room in the inn."

In passing from these interesting subjects, their attention was drawn to a magic dial, which, to all appearance, presented no evidence of any connexion between the hand of the dial and the machinery in the base. This excited their surprise; and after some reflection, they concluded they both would have to find that out when they had more time and ability than at present. At any rate, it was passing strange to them, and as hard to find out as double-rule of three, tare and tret, or vulgar fractions.

Having taken a view of the last objects in the room, their uncle led them to room No. 3, when their attention was called to the great polar bear, of Greenland, the black bear and cub, of North America, and the badger, of Europe. Alfred was tickled almost to death at the sight of such strange-looking creatures.





Their uncle then informed them, the white bear inhabited the icy regions of the north; that it fed upon fish and other marine animals; that it was not essentially carnivorous, or a flesh-feeding animal, but could be brought to live upon bread, was an expert swimmer and diver; and that the inside of its mouth was entirely black. That the black bear lived in forests, and fed upon

fruits and flesh; was skilful in fishing, and lived in the hollows of living trees.

Alfred then noticed a rather curious animal—a common sheep, with an uncommon fleece, eighteen inches long, from Connecticut.

In this room, also, were several specimens of the horns of the stag, moose, &c.; also a hornet's nest, of large size; a very beautiful gazelle, noted for the beauty of its eye, an inhabitant of the north of Africa; a fine fox; and many other things of less note; when, at length, their attention was called to the great African lion; a zebra, beautifully striped; a cougar; agnu, or horned horse; a sloth; and a wolf.



The Gnu.

Uncle Find-out, to inquiries relative to the lion, informed his nephews that the lion was of the cat-species, and the strongest of animals feeding upon flesh. Such was the power of his foot, that a single blow was enough to crush in the sides of a horse; and he could knock down the strongest man with a blow of his tail. He could clear thirty feet at a bound, and drag with ease the largest bullock. His roar was like distant thunder. His flesh was eaten by the Hottentots; and a tribe of Arabs, between Tunis and Algiers, lived almost entirely upon it. That the American lion, another species of the cat, was better known by the name of the cougar, one of which was also before them.



He said that the zebra was a most elegant animal, scarcely tameable; his skin beautifully soft, adorned with riband-like stripes. In the female, these stripes were alternately black and white, and in the male, brown and yellow. His voice resembled the hunter's horn. Numerous troops of them were often seen grazing on the extensive plains of the Cape of Good Hope.

Having viewed these different specimens, they next entered upon the bat and armadillo tribes, among which were the leather-winged bat of North America, and the great-eared bat of Europe; the armadillos, of South America, curiously armed with hard, shelly plates, and very beautiful specimens of these curious animals. The great vampire bats of Java attracted much of their attention, and the more so, from the fact, that their uncle informed them they were in the habit of sucking the blood of other animals while they were asleep. That there were several species, also, of them, in the United States.

Uncle Find-out being somewhat fatigued, sat himself down, and told his nephews they could amuse themselves, while he rested himself a little. They accordingly proceeded to examine the following: The nine-banded armadillo of South America; the Brazilian weazel, of South America; the cast ant-eater, male and female; the Patagonian cavy; the pouched rat, of Florida;

the sea-otter, of South America ; the chamelion, of Africa ; the lynx, of North America ; the Guinea-pigs, of South America, which they considered very beautiful indeed ; the crested cavy, of South America ; the musk-rats of North America ; sea-otters, of North and South America ; the rackoon and opossum, of North America ; the crested porcupine ; and, for the first time, the real striped pig, presented by Mr. Justice Merritt, which, barring the stripes, was evidently a descendant of swinish royalty : the bay lynx, of North America ; the three-toed sloth ; the Canadian porcupine ; the Brazilian porcupine. The Java musk, a very delicate little animal, was occupying their attention, when their uncle, clapping his hand upon their shoulders, aroused them from their contemplations, and called their attention to the Brazilian and royal Bengal tiger, a rhinoceros, with horn perfect, and a large African elephant.

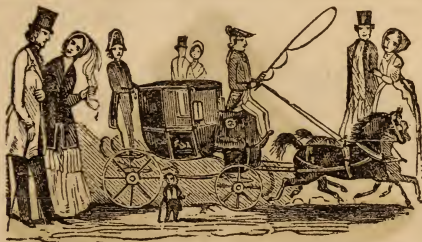


In answer to some inquiries, Uncle Find-out said, the tiger alluded to was more fierce than the lion, and equalled him in size and strength, as well as ferocity ; his hair was rough and yellow above, with transverse black stripes ; that he was an inhabitant of the jungles, in India, and committed the greatest ravages—

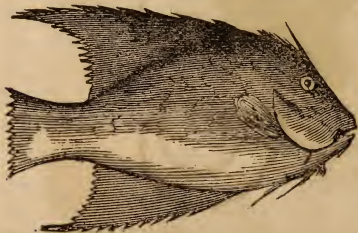
That the African elephant inhabited Africa, from Senegal to the Cape of Good Hope ; that it was more fierce than the Indian elephant, its tusks much longer, and that the female had them as long as the male—that in Siam there was a species of white elephant, which was held in great religious veneration—that the mammoth and mastodon were extinct species of the same class—that the rhinoceros was remarkable for the thickness of his skin, and that several species were known in India and Africa.

At length the boys read the following : " General Tom Thumb's carriage and horses," and they almost wished they had been as small as the general, and when their uncle gave them a little history of the general's travels, and the number of ladies' kisses he had received, they wondered a bit of the gen-

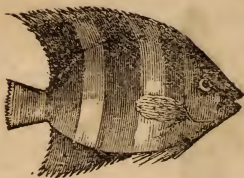
eral was left. Their uncle agreed with them, for he declared it beat "all natur" to see how the "gals" and old maids ran after him.



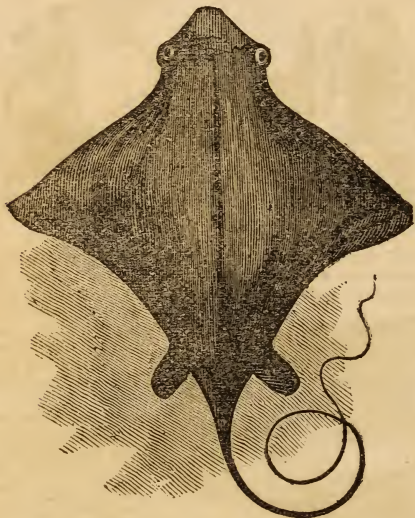
After looking at some passenger-pigeons, a red-breasted crow, scarlet ibis, of South America, the white ibis, of Java, the European jays, and the beautiful Peruvian jay, they at length came to the cases containing a great variety



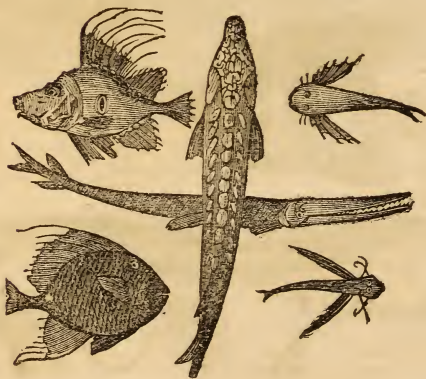
of very curiously-formed fish, among which was the black-bodied chactodon, of South America; the golden chactodon, of South America; the zebra chactodon; the electrical eel, of South America. "And now, boys, this curious fish has the power of giving such a severe shock, of an electric nature, that both men and horses are knocked down; and water, as well as metals, transmits the benumbing shock. The electric apparatus extends all along the back and tail."



The next one is called a sea-horse, in consequence of the head and trunk bearing some resemblance to the head and neck of a horse, in miniature.



And uncle cried, "Alfred, what monstrous ugly thing is this with a long tail?"



"That is called the Devil-Fish, and you may well call it ugly, for it is as ugly as the old fellow himself, that we hear so much talk about."

After looking at a great variety of other fish, such as the sturgeon, pike, John-dory, skate, flying-fish, and the dolphin, the young folks got among the monkey tribes; among which were the striated and tamarind monkeys, the black orang-outang of Africa, the blue-faced baboon, and the whiskered monkey;—and here the boys roared with laughter, as the monkey's peculiar fashion of wearing whiskers corresponded so completely with the present style of the don whiskeradoes, that the boys naturally concluded that it was, to say the least, a very apish fashion.

"And what great thing is this?" they cried.

"That is the great leather turtle, taken at Sandy Hook in 1811," replied the uncle.

"And what have we here? oh, uncle, is not that a beautiful model of a British forty-four gun frigate?"

"Indeed it is, and shortly you will see it in motion."

"Uncle, let us go now to the saloon."

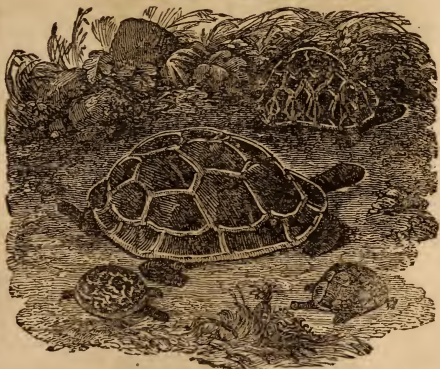
"With all my heart," he replied.

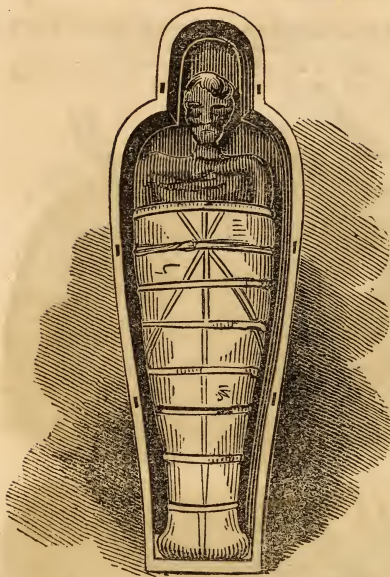
Upon entering of which, Uncle Find-out called the boys to notice a flag that was hoisted by order of General Washington, 25th November, 1783, at the Evacuation of New York. After the expiration of sixty-four years, it was unfurled to the breeze, at the laying of the corner-stone of the Washington Monument, 19th October, 1847.

"Never forget the stars and stripes of your country, my boys. Do you hear?"

"Yes, sir. As long as we live we will never forget the flag of our country, nor our uncle, who taught us to love it."

"Ah! you young dogs—chips of the old block—thank Heaven for that."





"And uncle, what do you call that?"

"That is an Egyptian mummy, of great antiquity. That body was once alive, as we are now. Two thousand years ago, perhaps, it underwent the Egyptian process of embalming, which preserved it from decay and decomposition."

Uncle Find-out next informed them that the ferocious-looking animal represented below was the sea-lion of the Falkland Islands, and that it was extremely savage in its nature.

"This animal appears to be a seal, is it not, uncle?"

"Yes, it is the common seal, or sea-calf, of North America."

"True; I remember the fur of some seals is used for caps, coat-collars, and other purposes."



"Bless me! what have we here? The hand and part of an arm, as I'm alive."

"Yes; that is the arm of the celebrated Tom Trouble, the pirate, who was taken after a severe action, in which he lost the forefinger of his hand. He died in prison, at St. Thomas, while under sentence of death. He was afterward nailed to a plank, and exposed in the harbor, when, strange to say, his whole body became bleached and preserved, similar to this arm, which was cut off by an American seaman, and brought to New York. Here, also, is a human body, found in 1814, at Glasgow, in Kentucky, in a saltpetrous cave, nine feet under ground. A very curious specimen, and in fine condition."

"I suppose the saline properties preserved the body, sir."

"No doubt."

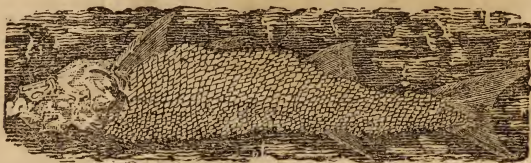
"And here is the foot and hair of another one, found in a copperas cave, on the Cave Branch of Cumberland river, Tennessee."

"This looks very different from the other. The color is much darker—more the color of liver."

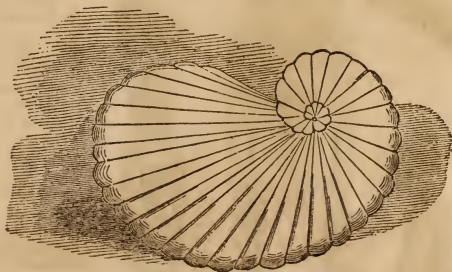
"Yes," said Charley; "but the hair does not seem to have undergone much alteration."

"Oh! uncle, did you ever see a Neptune's cup before?—made out of sponge, too! Isn't that curious? I guess master Neptune must be a curious fellow, and pretty old, too."

"Dame Nature has many curious whims, my boys, and that is one of 'em, I suppose. Now then, for the cabinet of fossils, minerals, &c."



"Indeed these are beautiful. Only look at the perfect impressions of fish, leaves, lizards, and shells. Strange such things should be so marked in stones, and petrified substances."



"What beautiful shells!—the pearl and nautilus shells. The latter is found in the Indian ocean and Mediterranean sea. In calm seas it is seen in its

beautiful shell, sailing along, with a portion of its body hoisted for sails, and using its feet in the place of oars.

"And here are some very elegant corals, from India and Florida, among which is one very similar to the human brain. These are the ingenious work of marine insects, and in some parts of the ocean form complete reefs, called coral reefs, which cause impediments to navigation."

"And here, my nephews, are specimens of marble from various parts of the world; also, of different varieties of coal, porphyry, agates, and other valuable stones. You can examine them carefully. From them you can form some idea of the extraordinary substances this good old world produces, and also to what perfection man's ingenuity can bring them. Many relics of antiquity are still to be seen in various parts, decorated with the marbles, and so on, of similar quality and beauty to these specimens.



"And now, my young folks, here is a boa-constrictor—a serpent that is of immense strength. He reaches some forty feet in length, and can crush an ox or a horse, and then swallow him whole. He then lies in a quiet state, until forced by hunger, which is about a month from the time he seized his last prey, when he watches his opportunity of seizing another victim."

bitter enemy to all snakes, and all such detestable-looking creatures."

"Only look, uncle, at this beautiful temple. Such, I suppose, are common in China."



"Yes, and contain the hideous objects of their idolatrous worship. Here is a statue of the Virgin and Child, carved from a single tusk of an elephant at Rome—very creditable to the talent of the operator. And this is a hat made by a poor lunatic, out of the splints of a broom, during his tedious confinement: just notice how neatly it is made."

"And here, uncle, is a piece of the

keel of the ship *Endeavor*, in which Captain Cook sailed round the world."

"He sailed in that vessel, I believe, three times round the globe?"

"He did."

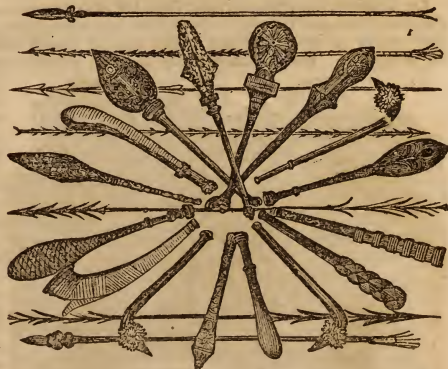
"Here we have the bald and sea eagles, of North America—noble birds; the crest of the coat-of-arms of the United States, of which we ought to be proud;—notice the brilliant plumage of these macaws, parrots, and other birds;—the red-headed parrot of South America; the blue and yellow macaw of the same country; the violet-colored parrot of Surinam; the Ethiopian paroquet of Africa; the common peacock, and the white peacock of Asia, with their spread tails.

"Now, then, for a few minutes to look at the Indian curiosities—weapons of war, clubs, canoes, daggers, &c.—among which is the dagger used by Osceola, the celebrated Seminole chief, in Florida.

"And here is the coat-of-mail worn by the army of William the Conqueror, upon his invasion of England."

"Yes, dear uncle; and here is the head of our Savior, sculptured in porphyry. Is not that very striking? And here, brother, is an ancient Swiss cross-bow, that will send a bullet through a thick plank at a distance of a hundred yards."

"Suppose we go now to the cosmorama exhibition; a change will be very agreeable, after looking at so many curiosities."—"With all our hearts, sir—novelty is always pleasing." And so they took a view of the city of Paris—the palace and garden of Versailles; the rock of Gibraltar; the island of St. Helena, with Bonaparte's house; the city of Athens; the island of Malta; the mansion-house, London; Jerusalem from the mount of Olives; the People's square at Rome; the castle of seven towers at Constantinople; and the tomb of Hyder Ali Khan at



Seringapatam, in the East Indies. Mr. Barnum has two hundred different cosmoramic views, which are changed every week. When old Uncle Find-out introduced his nephews to Miss Fanny Ellsler, of orang-outang celebrity, she received them with all the customary marks of Borneoan politeness; and as she acted her part so well and did her best to render the boys' visit agreeable, it is hoped that they will keep her in remembrance. The following is an orang-outang, with a chimpanse.



On leaving the orang-outang, they left the apartment, and in passing to the lower rooms of the establishment, the attention of the boys was called by their uncle to the *marsupial* tribes, among which are the opossum and the kangaroo. He informed them that the greater number of the former



inhabited America; and the remainder of the species, with the kangaroo, were found in New Holland: that the opossum was about the size of a cat, but its coat gave it the appearance of greater size; its head bore some resemblance to the fox, with long inanimate eyes and broad and translucent ears like the rat; its tail round and nearly a foot long; that on the ground the opossum was slow; that he

climbed trees with great dexterity; that his food consisted of birds, which he watched for in the foliage; that he suspended himself by the tail, which was flexible and muscular, and in this position waited his prey for several

hours at a time ; that the female was provided with a pouch, which served to lodge her young during the period of suckling, and from the peculiarity of this organization, they had obtained the name of *marsupialia*, or pouched animals ;—that the kangaroos were remarkable for the smallness of their forepaws, and the length of their hindlegs and tail, upon which they sat vertically as on a tripod ; by the assistance of those great paws they leaped very well, clearing a space of twenty feet at a bound ; that they inhabited New Holland ; and that the giant kangaroos stood about six feet high.

Their uncle then called upon them to notice the ostrich, and informed them

that this bird was noted for its immense speed, having baffled, in many instances, the fleetness of the swiftest horse ; that this bird laid its eggs in the sand, which were hatched by the heat of the sun ; that its feathers were very valuable, and were in great demand, among the fashionable circles, in every portion of the globe ; that the coronets of the nobility of foreign courts were ornamented with

the most elegant and expensive feathers of this description, and which, not unfrequently, were valued at one hundred dollars a plume.

From this curious bird, they reviewed the cases of shells, found in numerous foreign parts, many of which were of the most costly character and choice variety ; some of them most elegantly variegated ; others of a transparent whiteness ; and many of the richest colors and shades.

And they concluded that it would require several visits to the museum, in order to effect a careful examination of even the numerous specimens of this department of the establishment.

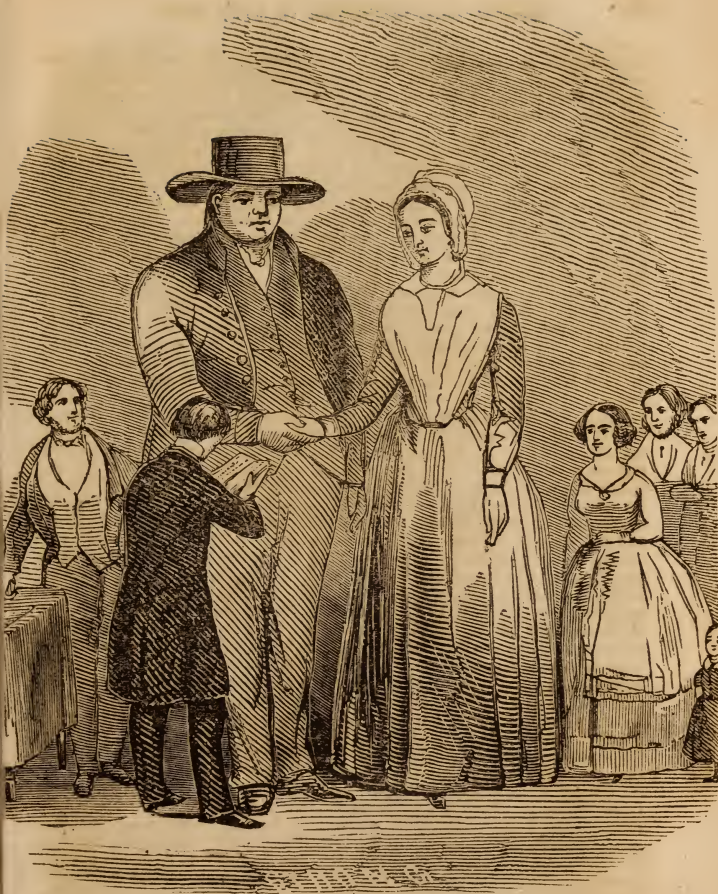
Taking their leave, the whole party hastened to the musical and vocal performances in another part of this extensive building, highly delighted with what they had seen,—the good old Uncle Find-out making his nephews



promise him that, let what would come, they would always patronise the American Museum in the city of New York.—And you may be sure they'll be ready enough to do so, if it was for nothing else than to please their uncle, and I'll be bound they'll need no coaxing. If you doubt it, just ask them when they come out from the performance,—and if they don't say yes, and to please themselves too, all I can say is, the "critters" will beat "all natur" and your humble servant into the bargain. Upon retiring to the hotel where they boarded during their stay in the city, the boys were desirous of hearing something more of General Tom Thumb. Their uncle was disposed to gratify them, and accordingly informed them that the general's real



name was Charles P. Stratton; that he was born at Bridgeport, Connecticut, on the 4th January, 1832; that at the present time he was only twenty-eight inches high—free from all deformity in shape, and perfect and elegant in his proportions—and weighed only *fifteen pounds*; that his complexion was fair, hair light, cheeks fresh and rosy—had large, beautiful dark eyes, a fine forehead, a handsome mouth, and great vivacity of manner;—that when exhibiting, he represented the characters in which he appeared most admirably, among which his personations of Napoleon Bonaparte and Frederick the Great were perfection itself, and elicited thunders of applause;—that he was the universal favorite of the ladies, and during his performances the museum was filled almost to suffocation; and such was the press to see him, that hundreds had to retire until a more favorable opportunity presented itself. He was visited by thousands. On the 18th of January, 1844, he went with Mr. Barnum, his parents and preceptor, in an open barouche, preceded by a brass band, down Fulton street, in order to go on board the ship *Yorkshire*, in which vessel he sailed for the purpose of visiting her majesty Queen Victoria, the royal family and nobility of England—Louis Philippe and the royal family of France, and the French noblesse. Upon his arrival in England, his course was a march of triumph. He several times visited her majesty Queen Victoria, Prince Albert, Queen Adelaide, &c., and received from the queen and other branches of the royal family, many costly presents,



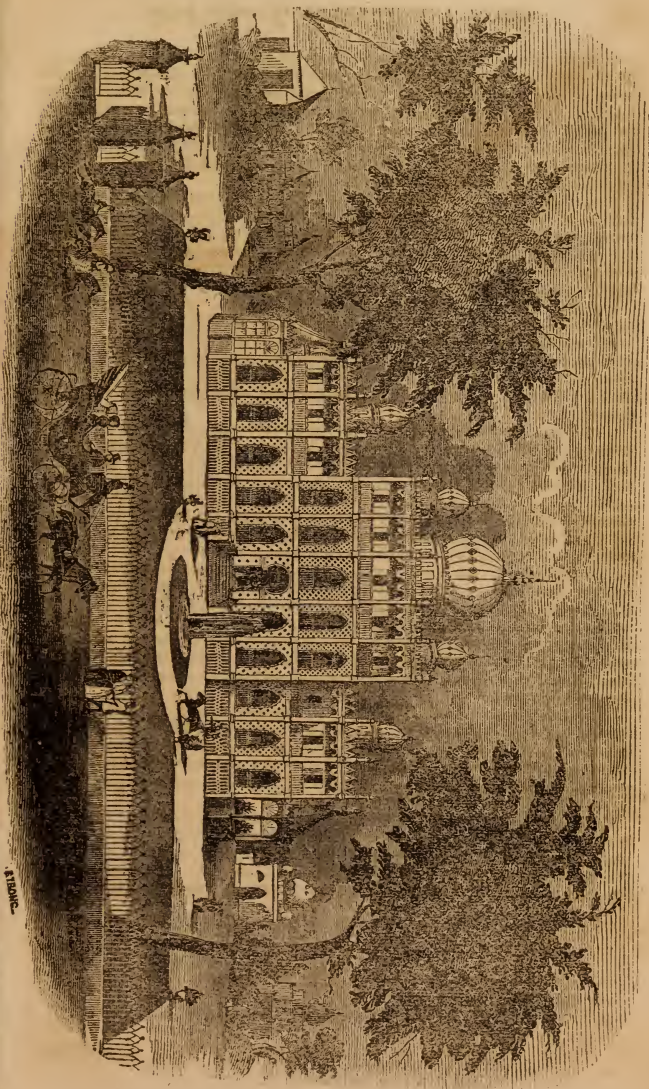
**MARRIAGE OF MR. ROBERT HALES AND MISS ELIZA SIMPSON,
THE QUAKER GIANT AND GIANTESS,**

AS IT OCCURRED ON

The Stage of the American Museum, Feb. 17, 1849.

consisting of diamond-rings, breastpins, watches, snuff-boxes, &c., and was called "the pet of the palace." He travelled through England, Scotland, and Ireland, and in February, 1845, proceeded to Paris, and appeared in the great procession at the Champ Elysées. He visited the palace of the Tuileries several times, and was loaded with presents from Louis Philippe, the queen, princess Adelaide, the Comte de Paris, &c., and his levees were attended by the beauty and fashion of France, during his residence there of four months. He visited the king and queen of the Belgians; and from Bordeaux he proceeded to Spain, and was presented to Queen Isabella, the queen mother, and the court then assembled at Pampeluna. While in London, he appeared before the emperor of Russia, the king of Saxony, and Ibrahim Pacha. His career has been a most brilliant one, and he has realized an independent fortune.

He then gave them a concise history of Mr. Barnum. This gentleman (he informed them) was born at Danbury, Ct., July 5, 1810; at the usual age he entered a store as a clerk, and afterward opened a store on his own account. He subsequently became the publisher of a newspaper; then removed to New York, and engaged in various travelling exhibitions; and in 1842 bought the American Museum, to which he has made great and expensive additions, as has been stated; in 1844 he went to Europe with the general, visited the crowned heads, and returned with half a million of dollars. He informed them that Mr. Barnum had also built a splendid mansion, or villa, near Bridgeport, Ct., in the oriental style, with outhouses and other suitable buildings; and that this magnificent structure is of a composite order, of the Byzantine, Moorish, and Turkish styles of architecture. Its entire front is one hundred and twenty-four feet, the wings being thrown off irregularly, with domed conservatories at each extremity; the main building consists of three stories, each having broad piazzas supported by colonnades of graceful pillars, surmounted by minarets of the most elegant appearance. Upon entering the great hall, about its centre springs a noble winding staircase, with a carved balustrade of black walnut, which, gradually contracting, winds to the observatory in the central dome; the niches of the staircase are embellished with marble statuary imported from Florence; opposite to the base of the staircase, large sliding-doors open into a very beautiful drawing-room, the walls of which are covered with a rich fresco paper, the principal panels of which represent the four seasons: the ceiling is of rich arabesque mouldings of white and gold; the mantels of Italian statuary marble; a royal Wilton carpet, of gorgeous pattern, covers the floor; the furniture is of rosewood; the curtains, drapery, statuary, mantel ornaments, clocks, &c., are of unique elegance; while the pier-glasses at each end, and the large folding-doors opening into the hall and dining-room, of plate-mirror panels on each side, apparently multiply infinitely this beautiful apartment. Throwing open these doors, you enter the dining-room, an elegant square room; the walls are painted in dark English oak, the rich panels of which represent the three fine arts, Music, Painting, and Poetry, the ceiling has richly-gilded mouldings; the furniture is of black walnut, including a cabinet of rare and beautiful porcelain, among which is a harlequin dessert-service, every piece of a different pattern, lettered with the initials "P. T. B." Uncle F. then gave the following description of the Chinese library: The walls are covered with Chinese landscapes in oil; the bookcase and furniture are Chinese, with one exception—a superb marquetry cabinet of brass and tortoise-shell, a fine specimen of the middle ages. Contiguous to this apartment are the rooms of the family, consisting of bedrooms, dressing-rooms, bathing-room, and conservatory; the second story is occupied with sumptuously-furnished rooms, a picture-gallery filled with rare paintings and engravings, and forming a passage to the bijou apartment of the villa, Mr. Barnum's private study, the walls and ceiling of which are



hung with the richest orange satin, with curtains and furniture of corresponding elegance; adjoining this is a bathing-room with plunge and shower baths of hot and cold water. The principal room in the third story is designed for a music and dancing saloon, and opens into the upper front balcony, from which is a commanding and beautiful prospect of Long Island sound and the surrounding country; and a still finer view is obtained from the richly-stained windows of the observatory, which is sixty feet in circumference, and fitted up with peculiar and effective taste.

This splendid villa has seventeen acres of ground around it, a considerable portion of which is laid out in gardens and pleasure-grounds, ornamented with trees and flowery shrubs of every description; the ornamental trees are carefully planted to the best advantage; the grounds are interspersed with flower-beds of every device; and the effect of the whole is greatly heightened by the splendid fountains, and the elegant iron fence with which it is enclosed. The name of the villa is IRANISTAN: "*iran*" is the Persian name for eastern country; "*stan*," as in Hindostan, signifies place.

When Mr. Barnum was in Paris, he was present at the sale of a Russian nobleman's personal effects, at which sale he purchased the gold and silver plate, among which was a tea-service of gold, of great value and beauty; also a large collection of rich porcelain, and other articles of great costliness.

Uncle Find-out further stated, that in consequence of the great facilities enjoyed by Mr. Barnum for furnishing instruction and amusement for the public, (he having agents travelling in Europe and all parts of the world, selecting and forwarding the richest specimens of all that is novel and curious), he has taken the NEW MUSEUM IN PHILADELPHIA,—a most magnificent building, *five* stories high, recently erected by Dr. Swaim, on the corner of *Seventh and Chesnut streets*,—and fitted it up in a style superior to that of any establishment of the kind in the world.

The citizens of the quaker city now pride themselves on having the greatest and best assortment of natural curiosities ever exhibited in one museum, and as interesting entertainments as are furnished in any city.

Mr. Barnum deserves their everlasting gratitude for opening this splendid establishment; and Philadelphians and their visitors will reward him for his eminent exertions; while the ladies and children, in particular, will enjoy the most pleasing performances, which are chaste and entirely free from any immoral influences.

Mr. Barnum (continued Uncle F.) is an advocate of the principles of teetotalism, and is a blessing to the country round about by his persevering efforts in the cause of temperance. His heart and purse are always open to the worthy unfortunate; and the gratitude and prayers of the widow and orphan, assist him in living up to the singular but appropriate motto—"LOVE GOD AND BE MERRY."

Thus you see, my boys, what persevering industry will do. Prosecute faithfully, as Mr. Barnum has done, the duties that fall to your lot; be vigilant, active, and industrious, as he has been; and, with the smiles of Fortune, you will find your highest hopes crowned with success. That this may be the case, will ever be the ardent wish and prayer of your affectionate uncle,

TIMOTHY FIND-OUT.









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